1: Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

592 In general, the family pattern in Estonia
362 underwent the same changes as it did in the Western world. Rural families, as compared to city ones, were more conservative. In the former a more patriarchal authority was preserved, whereas urban families were more democratic, especially in those cases where the husband and wife both worked outside the home. But the husband's legal supremacy still existed; the property in the family belonged to the husband unless the couple had legally separated it.

• 168 The primary function of the family was to rear physically, mentally and morally healthy children. This was done in co-operation with the school, the church and the community. The State and the community were concerned during the years of Estonia's independence with the decline in the size of the average family. Bonuses for working parents in case of the birth of

●168 a child were introduced by the State and local self governments. Working mothers received a paid vacation for four weeks before and six weeks after the birth of the child. These measures helped to increase the birth rate to a certain extent but not sufficiently. Economic difficulties immediately after World War I, the depression at the beginning of the 1930's, and the approaching thunder in the political skies of Europe played their part in keeping the birth rate low.

855 [586] A family environment was considered best for growing children, and since the divorce rate was not high in Estonia, the great majority of children [736] received parental love and care. Children's homes, usually run by local governments, were established for children from broken homes.

000 The parents normally enjoyed prestige in the

562 gatherings. On those occasions the mothers of
593
[168] large families received rewards.

593 Family reunions tended to keep alive the feel-
[527] ing of belonging between relatives. The most important family gatherings were weddings, baptisms, funerals, birthday parties, and visits during the chief holidays such as Christmas and Easter. At these gatherings several generations met and shared their joys and sorrows. In the everyday life each independent family lived its own life, but in cases of emergency, all the relatives usually helped as much as possible.

593 During the Communist regime the authori-
858 ties have often tried to force a wedge into family unity. They try to use children as spies and urge them to tell what the parents talk about at home, who is visiting in their home, and such things. Thus the parents have to distrust their